

BADGER

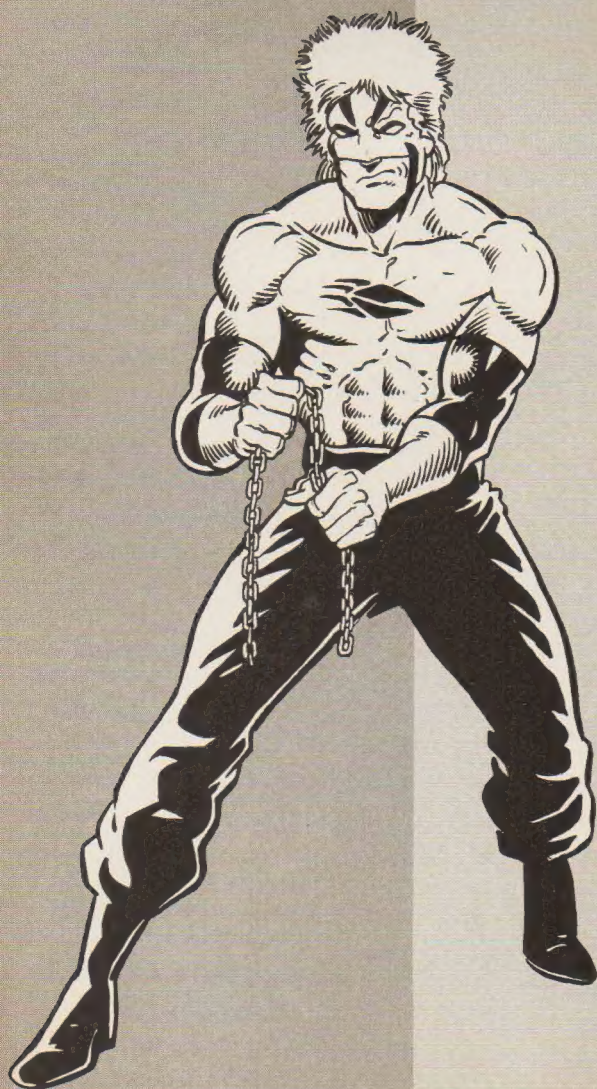
TM



Paul Abrams
+
Paul Abrams

BADGER™

CREATED BY MIKE BARON



A self-styled crime fighter who rides the highways and by-ways of America, the **Badger** metes out bloody justice to jaywalkers, ticket scalpers, indifferent teenaged fast food clerks, in fact, *any damn body he feels like because he's CRAZY!*

Badger is just one side of **Norbert Sykes**, a Vietnam veteran with a personality problem: it's split seven ways. Nevertheless, Norbert almost always finds himself in a Badger state of mind.

Badger is a master of Shorin-ryu and dozens of other obscure, esoteric, arcane, not to mention abstruse martial arts. He can also talk to the animals — just like Dr. Doolittle. Only with better results.

Badger lives with **Ham the Weather Wizard** in a castle south of Barneveld, Wisconsin. Ham and Badger met while both were inmates at a state mental hospital. Through cunning and chicanery, Ham has amassed a considerable fortune.

Badger calls everyone Larry.

Last Issue: Badger, Ham and **Senator Bob Kasten** went off to hunt lousy stinkin' vampires. They nailed one, but now they have to answer to her brother. And boy, is he steamed.

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A FIRST COMICS PUBLISHING PRODUCTION



BLOOD SUCKER

PART TWO

VILE LITTLE
MEN! YOU STAKED MY
LOVELY EUGENIE-- I SHALL
REND YOU LIMB FROM
LIMB BEFORE I DRAIN
YOUR BLOOD.

GRRRR

GRRRRR

INDEED,
SIR? I STILL HAVE MY
LITTLE HAMMER AND
ANOTHER PIECE OF
WOOD...

THAT'S RIGHT,
DRACULA! WE'VE
HEARD IT ALL
BEFORE!

mike
BARON
writer

ron
LIM
pencil

paul
ABRAMS
ink

bill
OAKLEY
letter

ray
MURTAUGH
paint

larry
DOYLE
editor



DRACULA TURNED TO DUST IN '78. I'M THE NEW KING OF THE VAMPIRES.

BIG TALK FOR A GUY WHO PREYS ON VAGRANTS IN MADISON, WISCONSIN.

THERE'S A REASON WHY I'M HERE-- AND IT WILL DELIGHT YOU. THE BLOOD OF A FEMALE VIRGIN, PURE OF HEART, WILL REJUVENATE ME FOR A HUNDRED YEARS!

AND WHERE, PRAY TELL, WILL YOU FIND SUCH A CREATURE IN THIS DAY AND AGE?

CAWW!

HOLY CRAP!

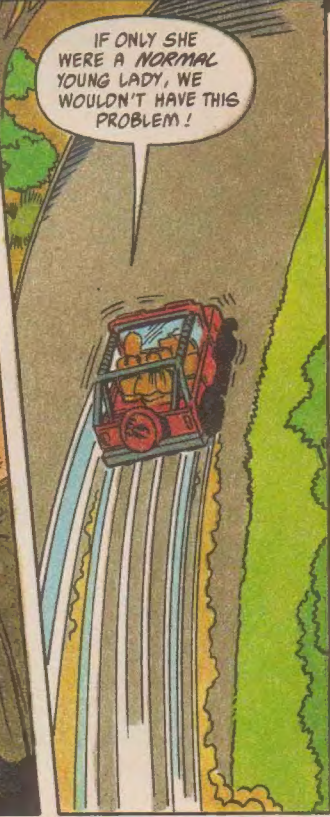
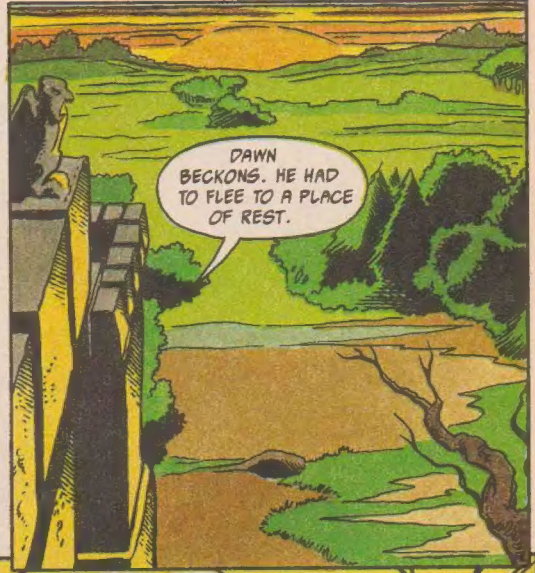
EXACTLY. MISS DAISY FIELDS.

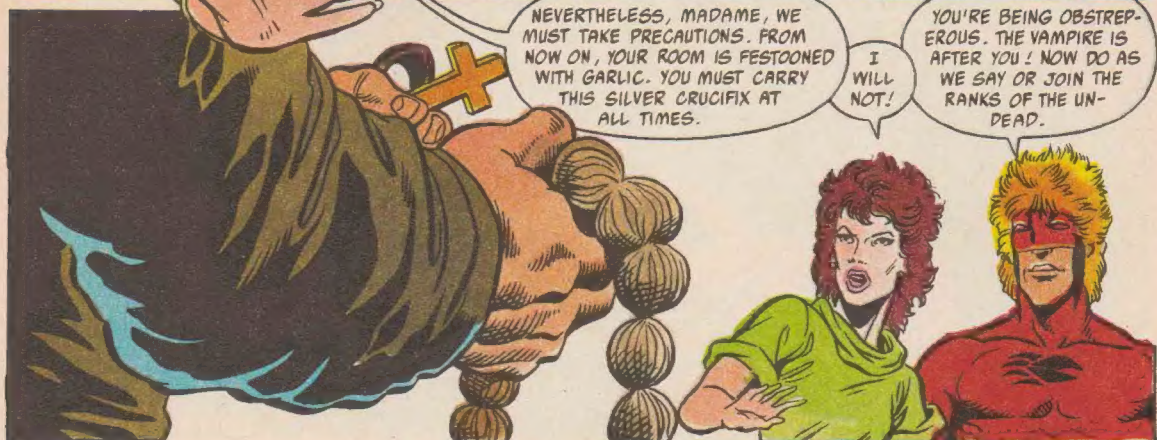
YAAA!

TROMP

SQUEAL



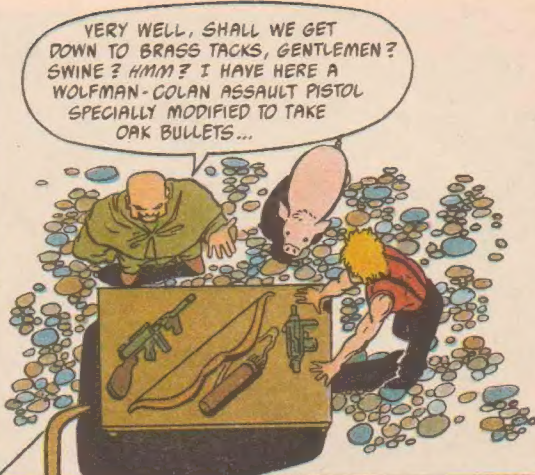






I HOPE YOU'RE SATISFIED. I FEEL LIKE AN ITALIAN DELI.

WELL, YOU LOOK LIKE AMERICAN CHEESE ON WHITEBREAD. NOW JUST STAY THAT WAY UNTIL MORNING.



VERY WELL, SHALL WE GET DOWN TO BRASS TACKS, GENTLEMEN? SWINE? HMM? I HAVE HERE A WOLFMAN-COLAN ASSAULT PISTOL SPECIALLY MODIFIED TO TAKE OAK BULLETS...



ALL THESE ARROWS HAVE SILVER HEADS AND OAK SHAFTS.

GIMME.



WATER PISTOLS FILLED WITH HOLY WATER, COURTESY OF THE REVEREND WALLOP.

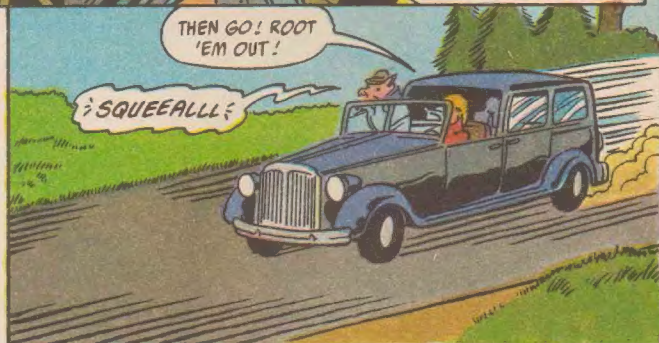
I WASN'T EVEN GONNA ASK.

AND IF ALL ELSE FAILS, I SHALL TURN HIM INTO A TOAD! I SHALL! I HAVE THE POWER!



NOW THEN, SENATOR -- ARE YOU READY TO LEAD US TO THE BLOOD-SUCKER?

POINK!!

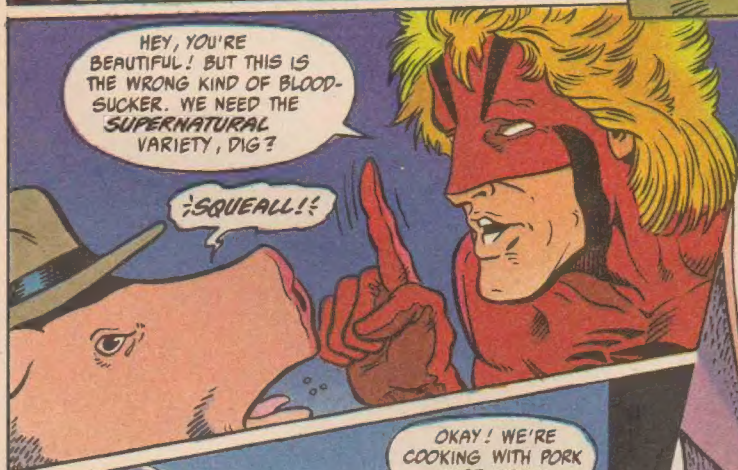
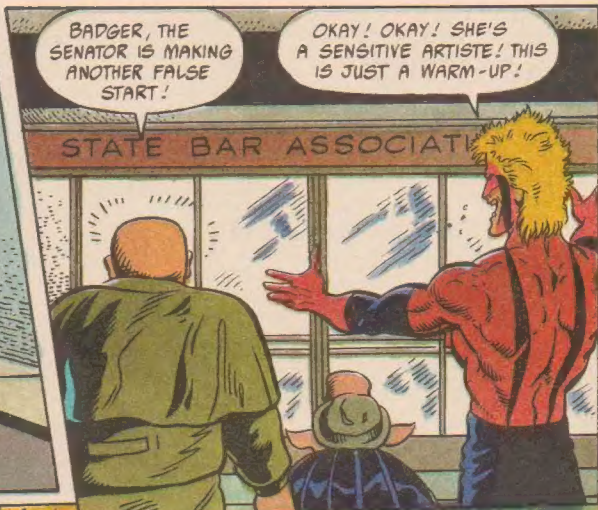
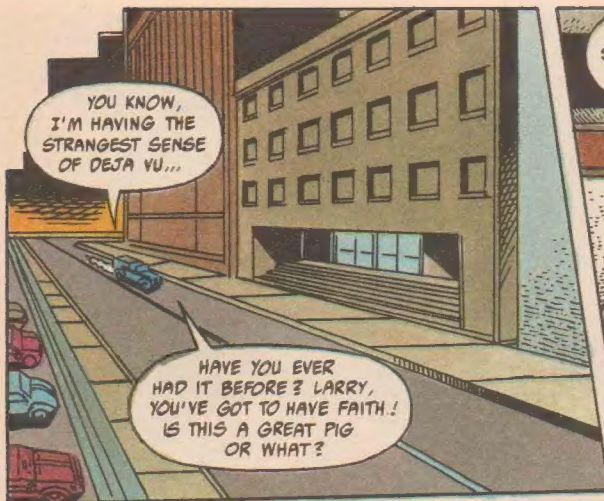


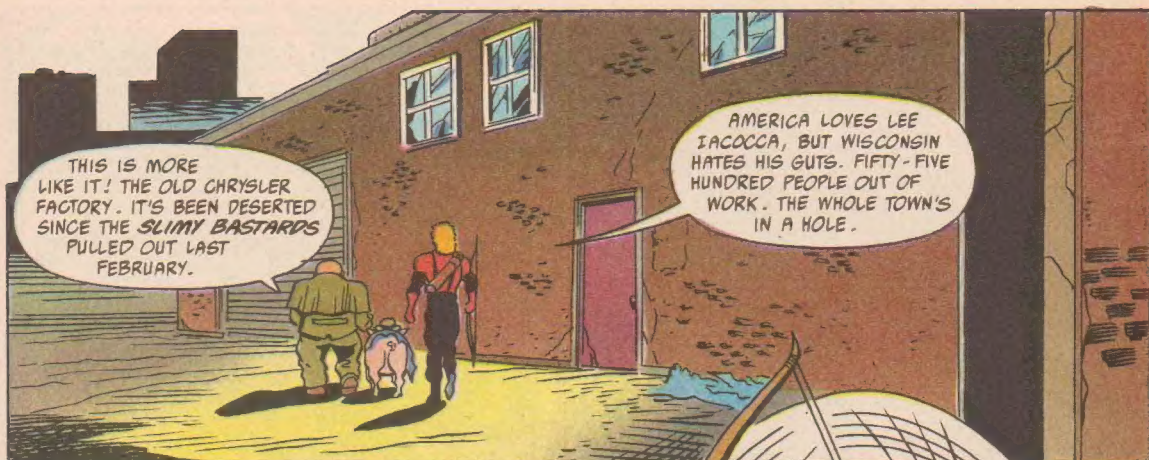
THEN GO! ROOT 'EM OUT!

SQUEEALL!



SO MUCH FOR THAT NON-SENSE.





BEWARE! WE WON'T CATCH OUR FRIEND VICTOR UNAWARE... HE'S LIKELY TO HAVE VAMPIRIC ALLIES...

GOOD. I WANT TO KICK SOME UNDEAD ASS!

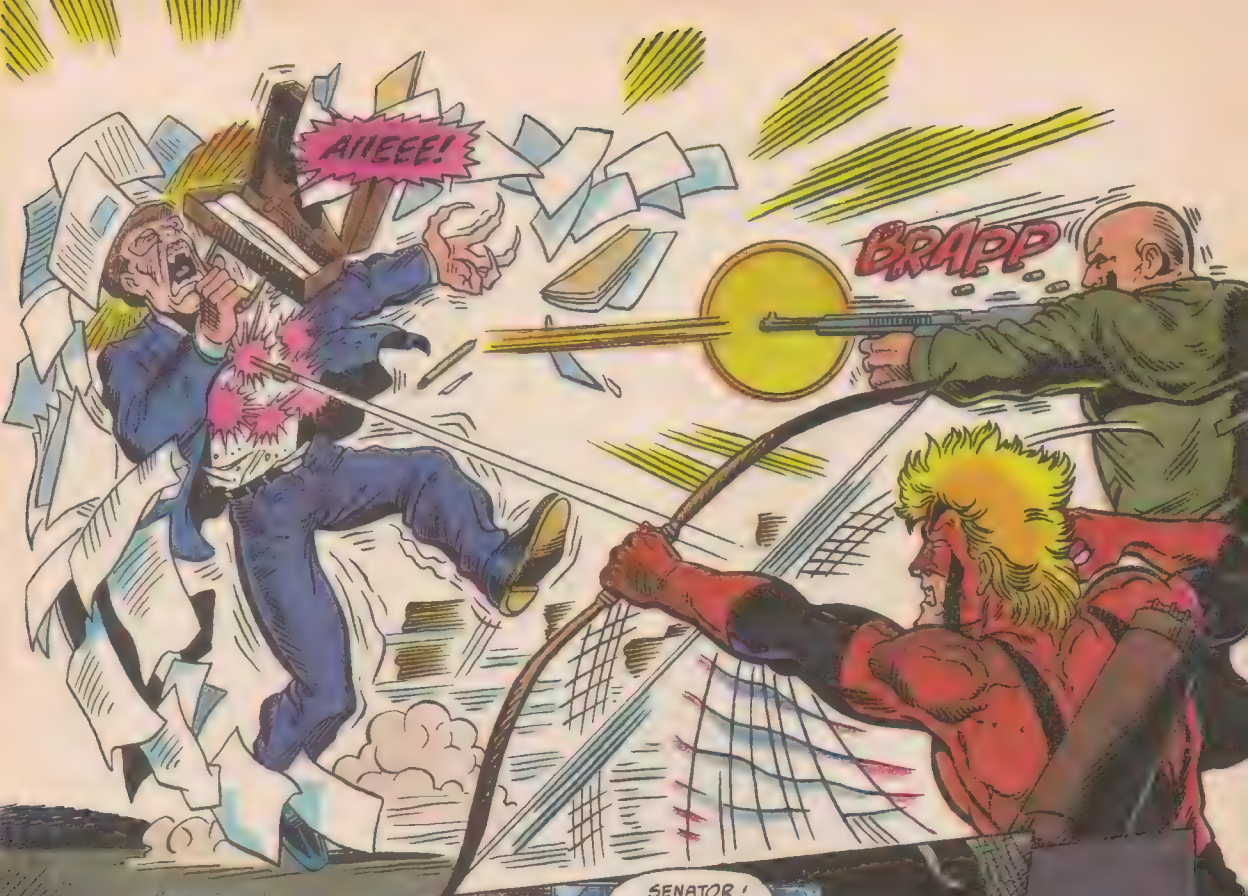




SWEETER
THAN THE BLOOD OF
VIRGINS, THE BLOOD
OF TAX DELIN-
QUENTS!

SO! I
MIGHT HAVE KNOWN!
SENATOR WAS
RIGHT!

WELL, COME ON THEN,
YOU MISERABLE PARASITE! YOU'VE
GOT ALL MY DISPOSABLE INCOME, YOU'VE
STIFLED INDIVIDUAL CREATIVITY, YOU'VE
INDULGED IN VILE EXCESS AND BLATANT
CIVIL RIGHTS ABUSE! YOU WANT
MY BLOOD, TOO?!



THIS WOLFMAN-COLAN 9 MM REALLY DOES THE JOB!

SO WHAT? WE MISSED THE HEAD MONCHO AND IT'S PAST DUSK. WE'D BETTER SHAG ASS BACK TO BARNEVELD.



SENATOR! WHERE'S THAT DAMN PIG?

NEVER MIND THE PIG, SIR. I BELIEVE WE HAVE MADE A GRIEVOUS ERROR...



BUZZ-- MUMBLE...

WHAT'S THAT? SPEAK UP!

I'M TRYING TO RECALL THE SPELL FOR CONVERTING PEOPLE INTO TOADS, IF YOU DON'T MIND!



VICTOR OUTFOXED US. WE MUST MAKE HASTE TO BARNEVELD.



YOU HAVE THE SOFTEST SKIN...
AND THE SCENT OF ROSES. HOW
I LOVE TO RUN MY FINGERS
THROUGH YOUR HAIR...

OH, VICTOR, I'VE
ALWAYS DREAMED ABOUT
A MAN LIKE YOU...



IS THAT WHY YOU'VE
REMAINED SO UN-
TOUCHED?

WELL, YES, PARTLY. MY
PARENTS ARE MORMON AND
YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE THE GUILT TRIP
THEY LAY ON YOU ABOUT SEX!



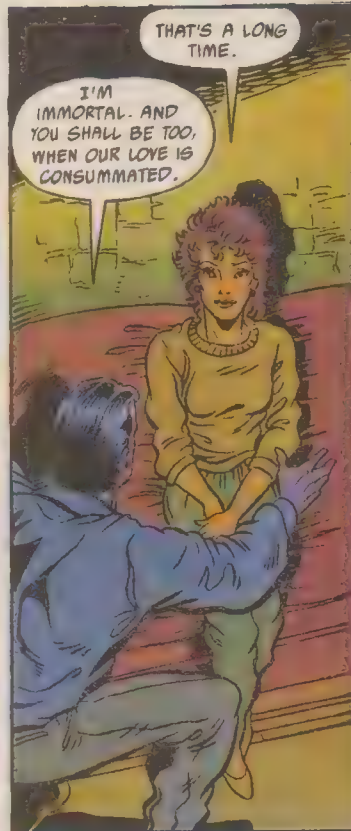
MOST YOUNG WOMEN WOULD
REBEL... DO EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE
OF THEIR PARENTS' DEMANDS...

YOU'RE RIGHT.
AND IN MUCH OF MY LIFE
I'VE DONE JUST THAT.
BUT I GUESS I'M A
ROMANTIC...



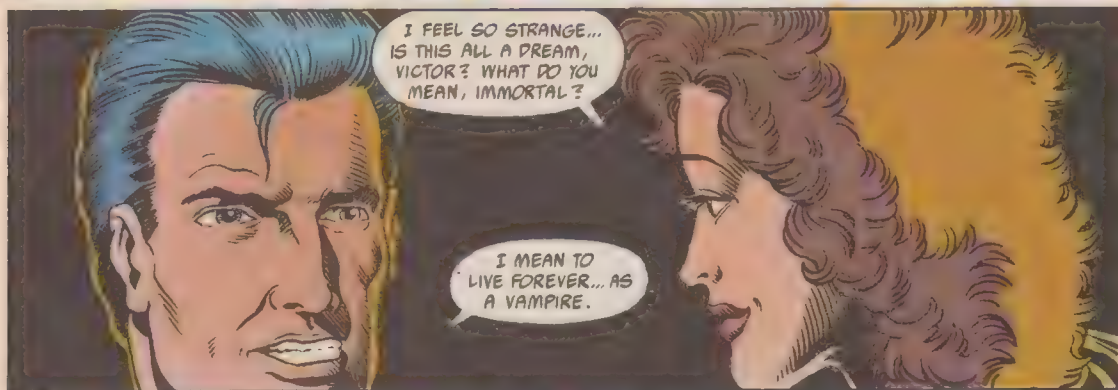
I'VE BEEN HOLDING
OUT FOR PRINCE CHARMING.
IS IT YOU, VICTOR? I HOPE
SO. I THINK SO.

I, TOO, HAVE DREAMED
OF SOMEONE LIKE YOU... FOR
FIVE HUNDRED YEARS I'VE
DREAMED...



THAT'S A LONG
TIME.

I'M
IMMORTAL. AND
YOU SHALL BE TOO,
WHEN OUR LOVE IS
CONSUMMATED.



I FEEL SO STRANGE...
IS THIS ALL A DREAM,
VICTOR? WHAT DO YOU
MEAN, IMMORTAL?

I MEAN TO
LIVE FOREVER... AS
A VAMPIRE.

First PERSON SINGULAR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: ANNOTATED EDITION

Back in April, I wrote a column, outlining the many cool things I was going to do here at First. If you missed that column, I'm sure back issues are still available. But if you did read it, you may be interested in the following two letters, which I have copiously annotated, since I did not receive three letters.

American Flagg! (11) — I'll drop that title from my buy list the same day.

Here's some advice. Don't rock the boat at First Comics — the reason they have such a following is because of the substance of their work. Sit back and understand why things work instead of running around like a chicken with its head cut off making changes just because you're new and want to make an impression. Relax, and don't start editorially whacking away at things that took years to attain their present level of acceptance.

Did First get you from Marvel or D.C.? (12) This is not a hate letter (13) — I just don't want to see major changes when I'm satisfied with the way things are now.

Sincerely,
Craig Bannister

To Larry Doyle:

Drop dead. (14)

Better still, let me help you.

With all the insincerity I can muster,

A female fan. (15)

Dear Mr. Doyle,
I don't know you and already I
don't think I like you."

Dear Mr. Doyle,

I don't know you and already I don't think I like you. (1) I just read your "A Modest Proposal...." (2) editorial in Nexus #49 and I truly hope you're being satiric and not serious about the changes you mention: Lil' Badger (I hate slimy attitudes like "We've taken the liberty of dropping Lil' Badger and his precocious remarks into the proofs after Baron has already approved them.") (3); Nex-men (I also hate clones and rip-offs of the original) (4); Lone Wolf and Dreadstar combined (5); Molly Tyler Moore (6)? You've got to be kidding. (7)

The reason I read First Comics is because of the intelligence and individualism of most of the titles. Nexus, especially, has more substance than any other 10 comics combined (8). I stay away from Marvel and DC's oatmeal mush of combining storylines and characters with every plot stamped out of the same cookie-cutter mold (9). Now it seems you want to incorporate into First Comics the very things I abhor (10). The first time I see Ralphie or some other pansy cartoon character show up in the real

1 I know you'd like me if you got to know me. But I'm afraid that's going to be impossible.

2 cf. Jonathan Swift

3 Unfortunately, we had to discontinue this practice after someone squealed to Baron and he kicked the living crap out of me.

4 Then you're probably not going to like our latest title, Kleptocione 2000, or our new Badger in Oz crossover series.

5. We've since decided to go with Lone Wolf and Whisper, and play up the romantic angle.

6. That was Whisper's old new alias. Now it's She Wolf.

7. cf. Note 2.

8 And now it's going to have 10 times as many Nexuses, as well.

9 We all use word processors for that now.

10 And I could do a better job of it, if you would provide me with a comprehensive list.

11 The debut of the U.S. Flagg and his Ranger Friends Saturday morning cartoon series has been slightly delayed. An unforeseeable acetone explosion in the animators' shed destroyed nearly 4,000 finished cells (the equivalent of six full half hour episodes), not to mention many of the animators.

12 Do you really think Marvel Comics or Detective Comics Comics would have let me go?

13 But an incredible fascimile.

14 Thud.

15 Oh boy, groupies already.

Next Month: The truth. Trust me.

Larry Doyle

FIRST IN OCTOBER

1 Team Yankee #4, #5 and #6. WWII really heats up! Limited weekly series, based on Maj. Harold Coyle's bestseller. By David Drake, Rod Whigham and Gerald Forton.

1 Lone Wolf and Cub #18: By Kazuo Koike and Goseki Kojima. Also, don't miss the **Deluxe Edition**, collecting issues #1-6, with dust jacket painting by Frank Miller and Bill Sienkiewicz.

1 The Forgotten Forest of Oz. An all-new Oz adventure by Eric Shanower.

1 Nexus #53 By Mike Baron, Paul Smith and John Nyberg.

1 The Next Nexus #2: By Mike Baron and Steve Rude.

1 Grimjack #55: New artist Flint Henry introduces John Ostrander's new Grimjack. Cover by Flint and Timothy Truman.

1 Badger #44: By Mike Baron, Ron Lim and Paul Abrams.

1 Howard Chaykin's American Flagg! #10. By Chaykin, et al. *Reader discretion advised.*

1 Sable #12: By Marv Wolfman, John Hebert and E.R. Cruz.

1 Whisper #21 By Steven Grant and Spyder.

1 Elric: Bane of the Black Sword #4: By Roy Thomas, Mary Mitchell and Nicholas Koenig.

First Publishing, Inc.
435 N. LaSalle, Chicago, IL 60610

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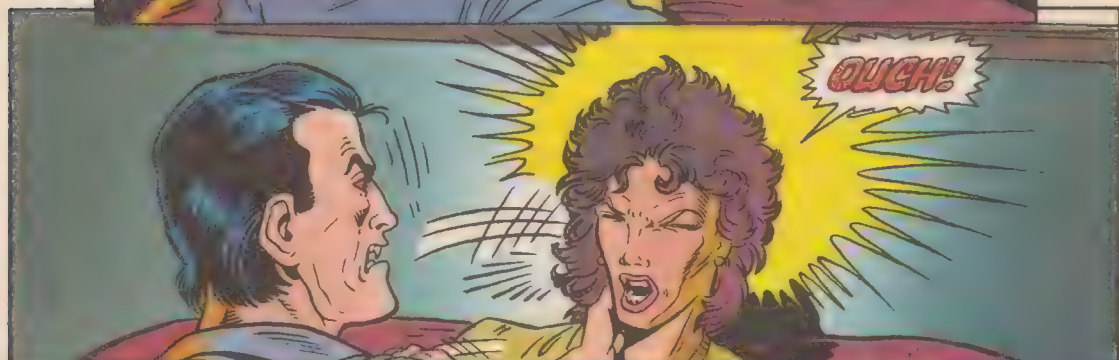
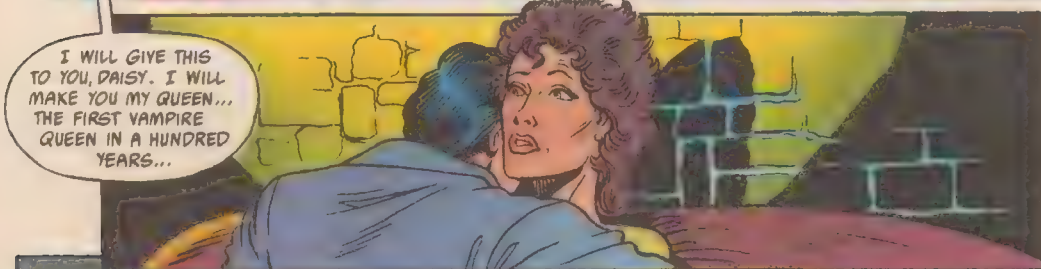
coming in

NOVEMBER

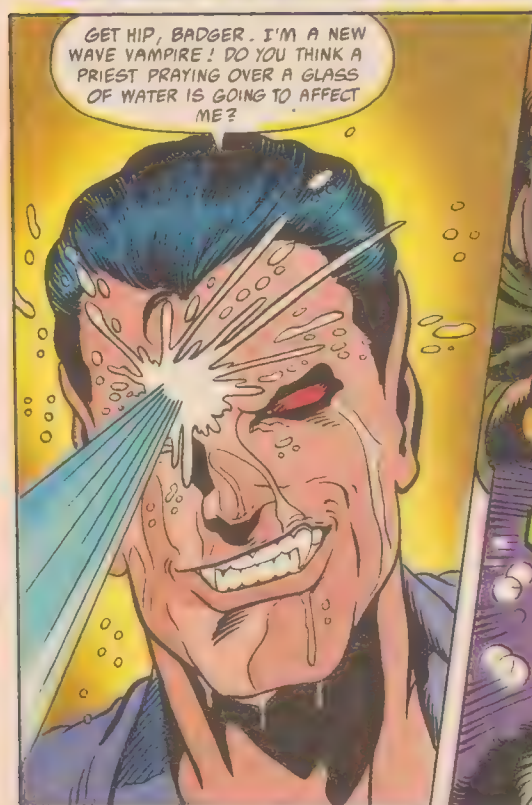
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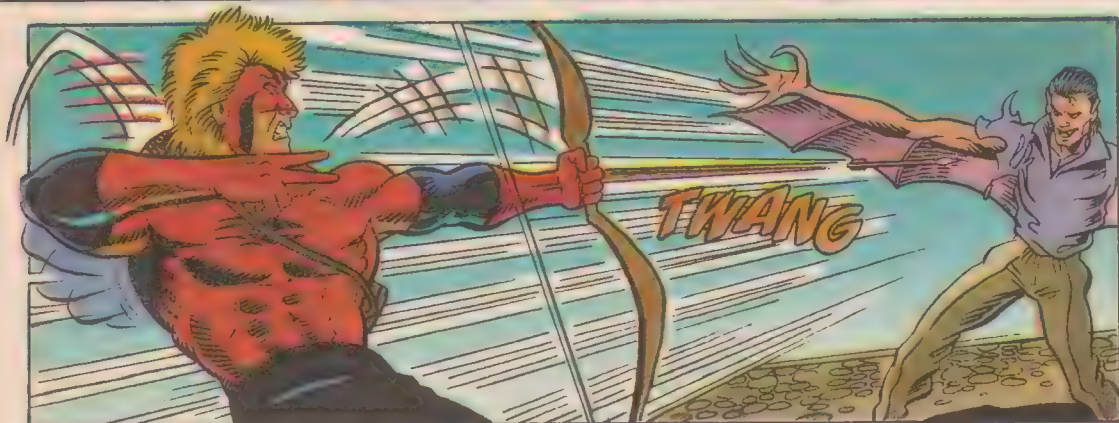
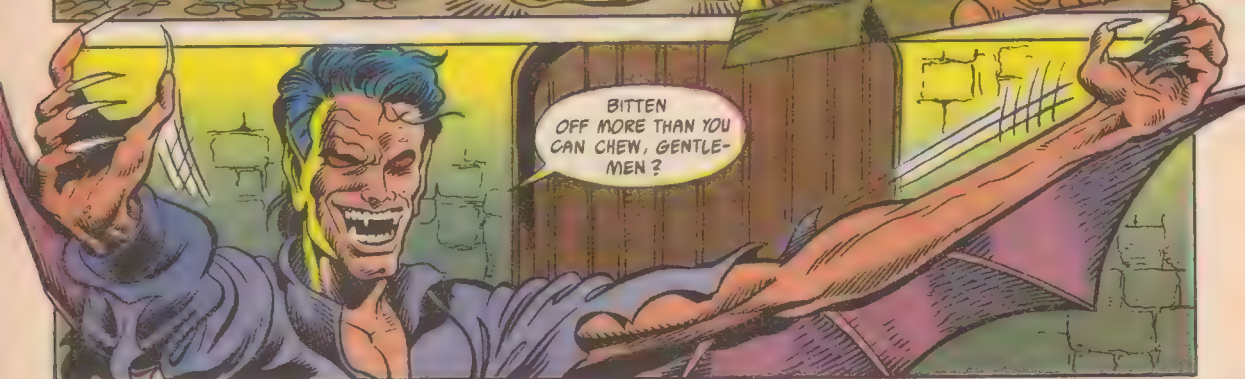
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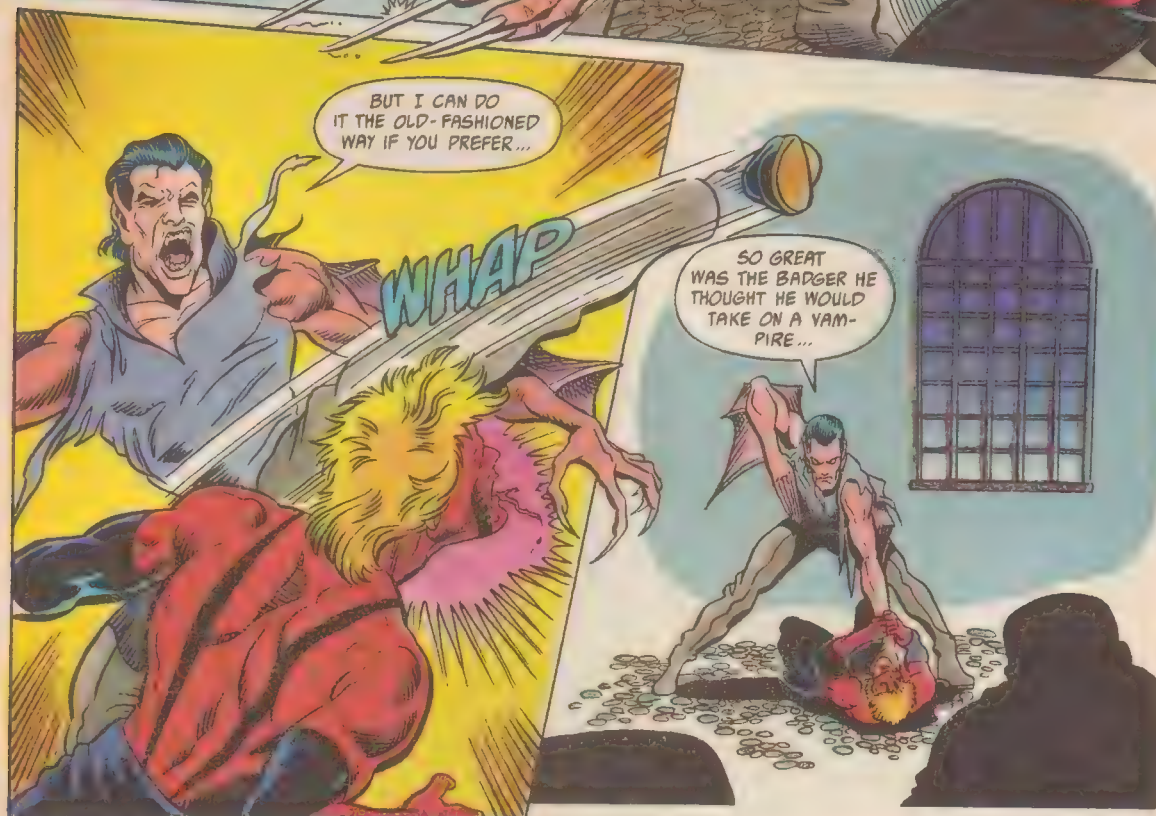












TURTLES T • I • M • E • S FOUR

ON • SALE • IN
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NINJA

TURTLES

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FIRST
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles TM and © 1988 Mirage Studios.
Cerebus TM and © 1988 Dave Sim.

DREADSTAR

RISING

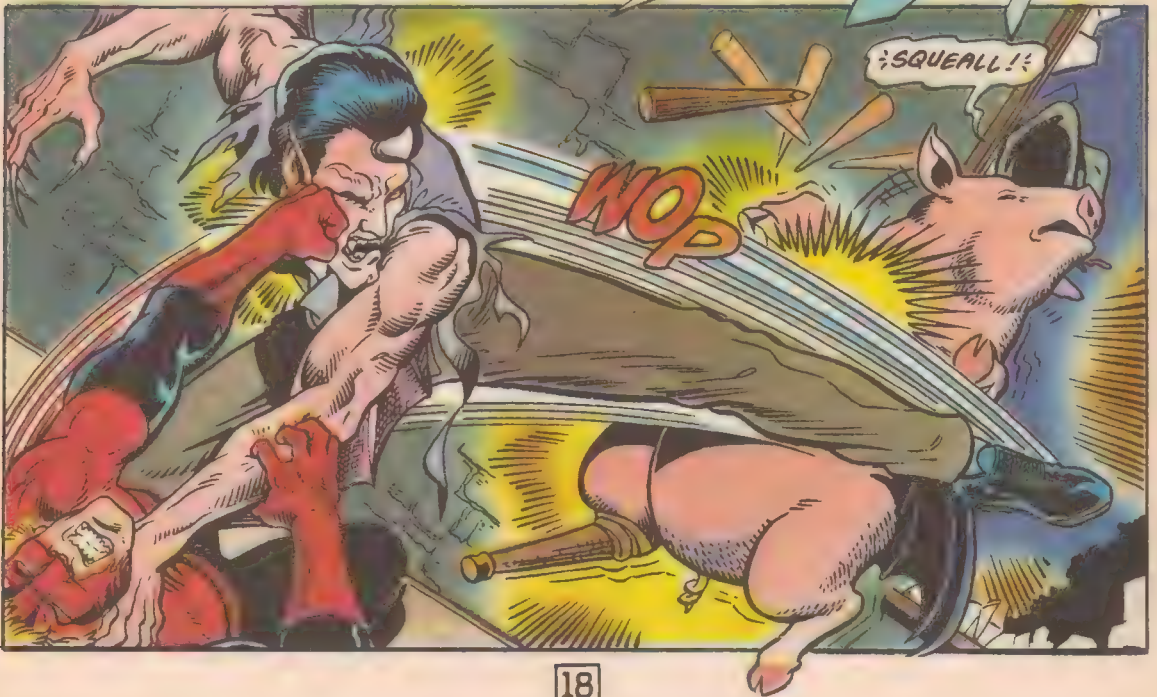
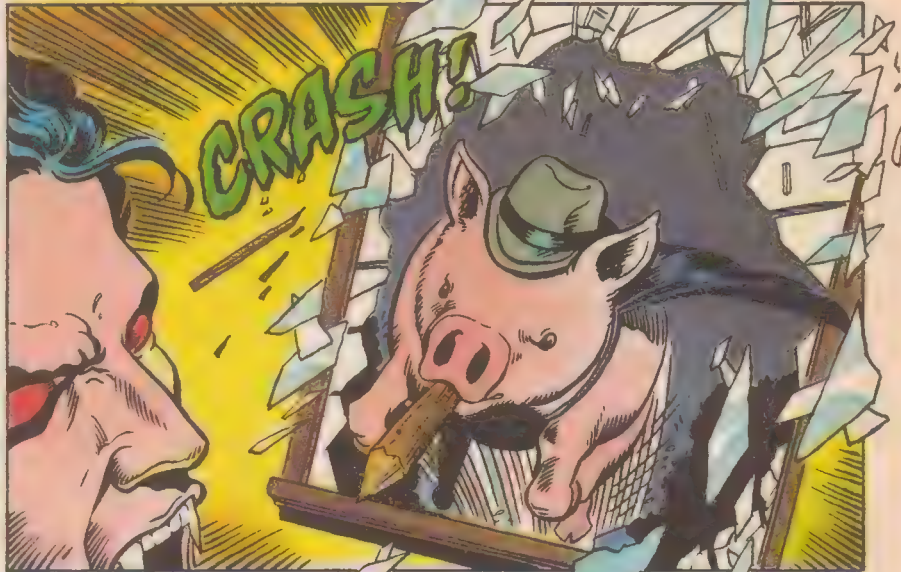
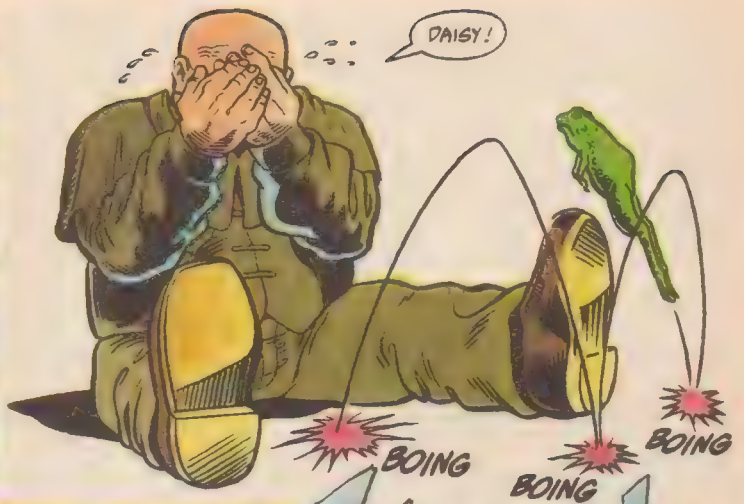


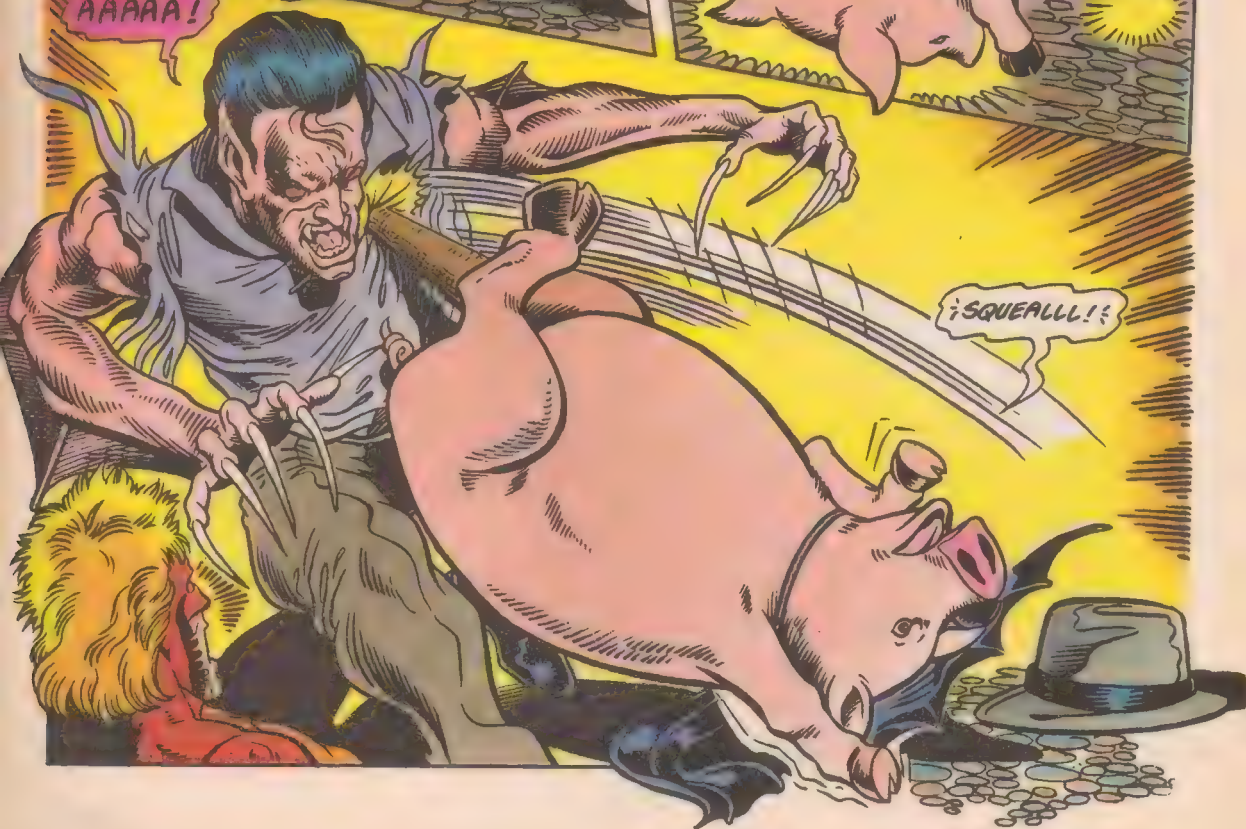
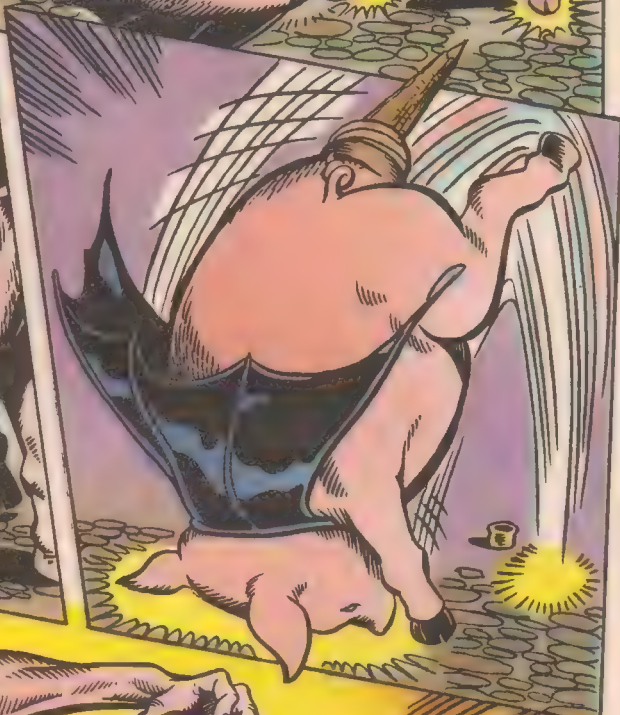
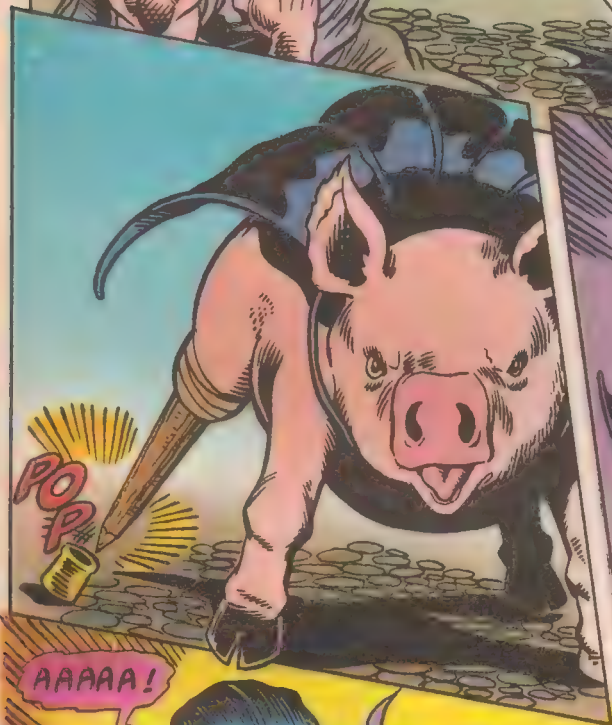
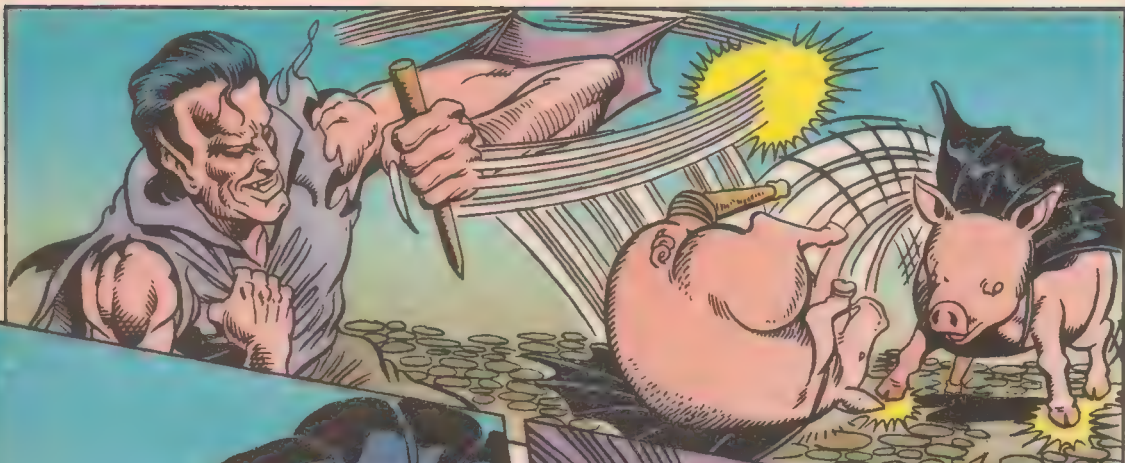
The new creative team of **Peter David**
and **Angel Medina** continue the
incredible cosmic odyssey of Vanth Dreadstar.

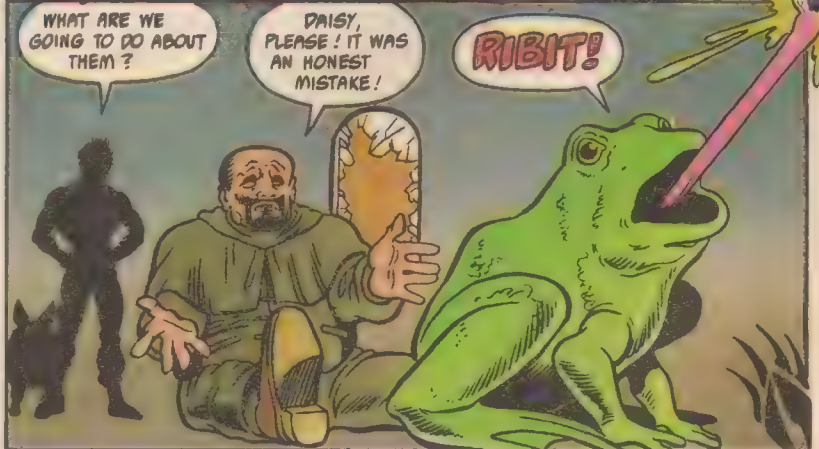
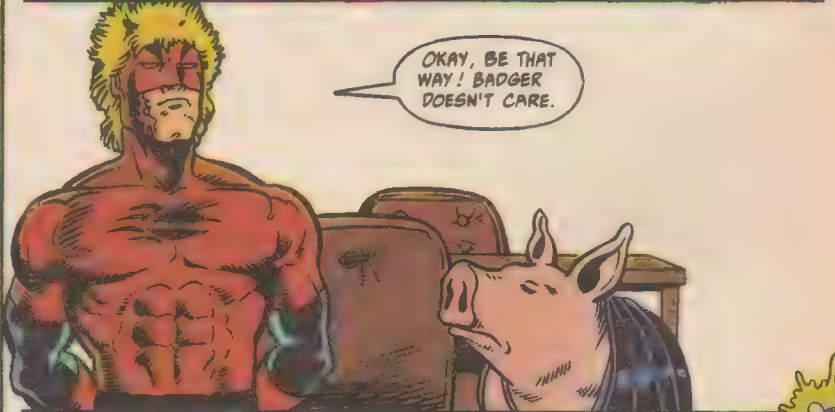
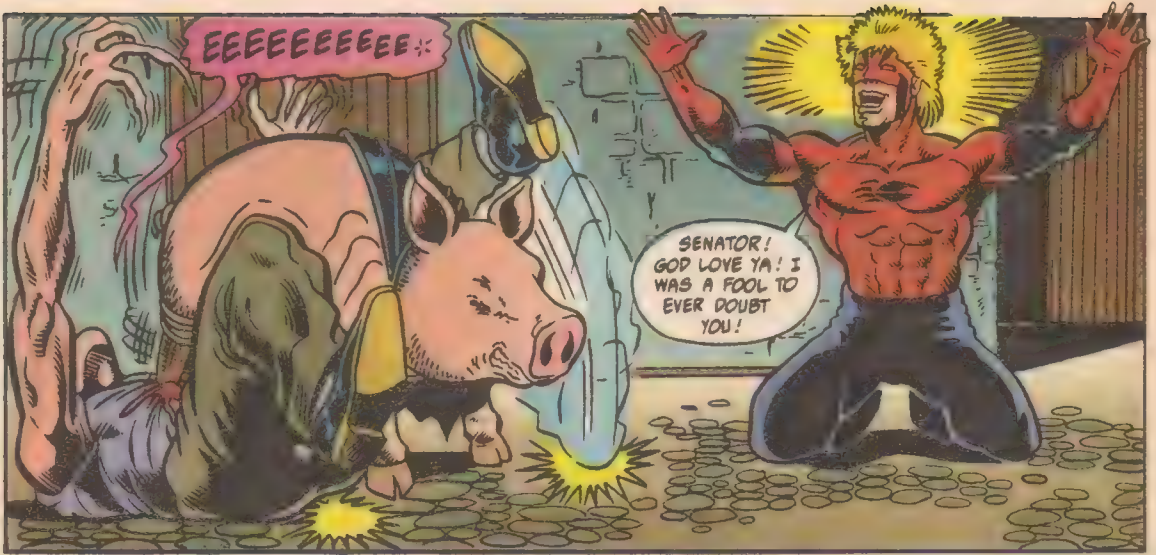
Beginning in Dreadstar #41
Coming in November

FIRST
COMICS

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CLONEZONE

THE HILARIATOR™

AMERICA'S MOST BELOVED
CARTOON CHARACTER IN:

MIKE BARON
Writer

NEIL VOKES
Artist

BILL OAKLEY
Illustrator

RAY MURTAUGH
Colorist

LARRY DOYLE
Editor

I DON'T
BELIEVE IT! THE HACK
INHALED A WEIMERANER
AND I HAVE TO WALK
TEN BLOCKS TO THE
STATION!

YOU LITTLE TWERP! WE WARNED YOU
WHAT'D HAPPEN IF WE CAUGHT YOU!

DAT RIGHT, RAT. YOU DON'T PAY
PROTECTION, YOU DON'T GET
PROTECTION!

BUT FELLAS! I USE
PROTECTION! FIVE DAY
DEODORANT PADS! THEY'VE
STILL GOT THREE DAYS ON
'EM. WANT 'EM? THEY'RE
YOURS.

HMMM...

YOU SAYIN' WE
STINK OR
SOMETHIN'?

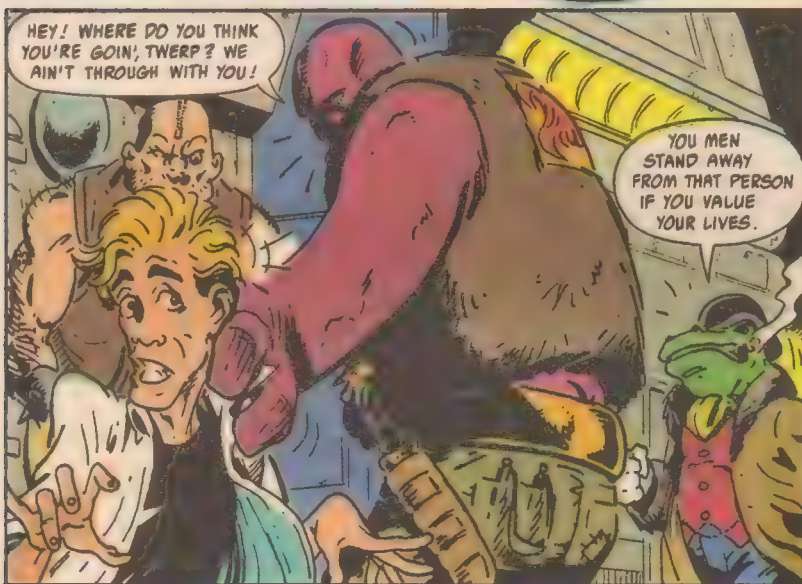
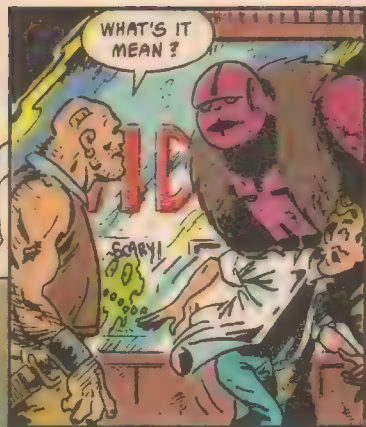
NO, SIR!
ABSOLUTELY NOT!
I THINK YOU GUYS
SMELL SWELL!

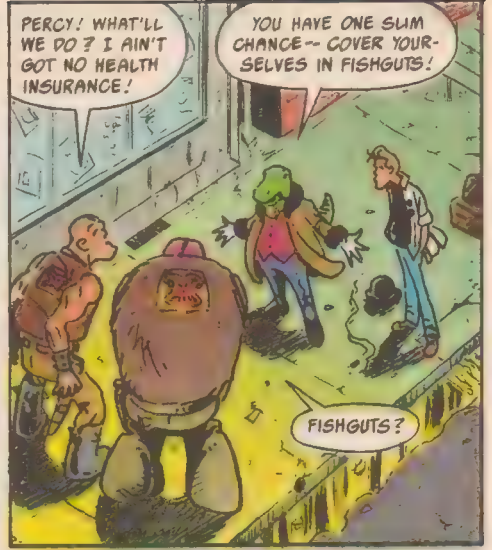
SO NOW
WE SMELL SWELL,
IS THAT IT?

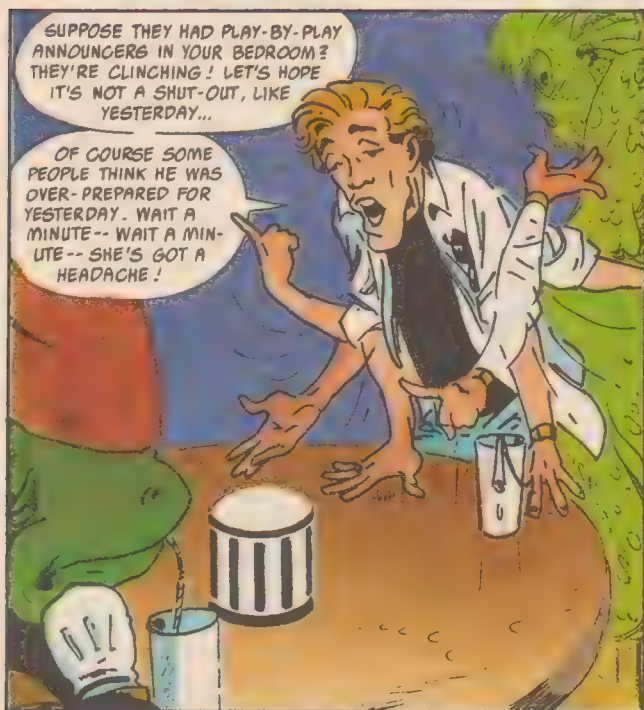
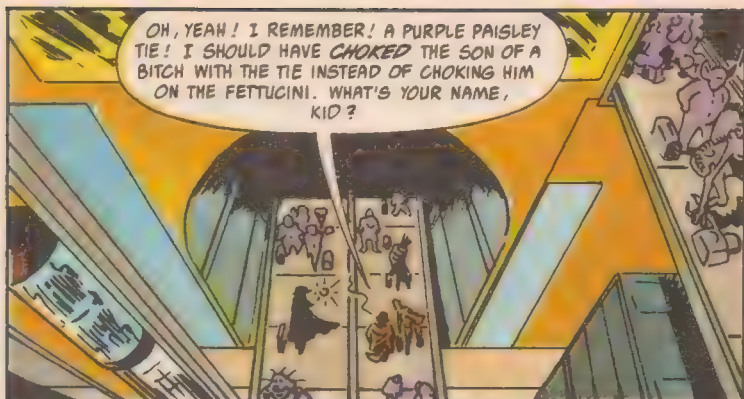
NOPE, THAT AIN'T IT!
NOW LISTEN CLOSELY.
THIS GUY GOES INTO
A FOODVAC AND
ASKS FOR HALF
A CABBAGE...

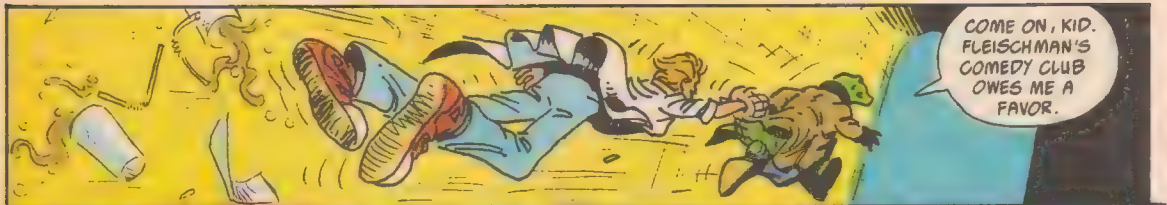
SAY
WHAT?

GUY
RIGHT BEHIND
HIM TURNS TO A
WOMAN AND SAYS,
"CAN YOU BELIEVE
IT? SOME IDIOT
WANTS TO BUY
HALF A
CABBAGE!"

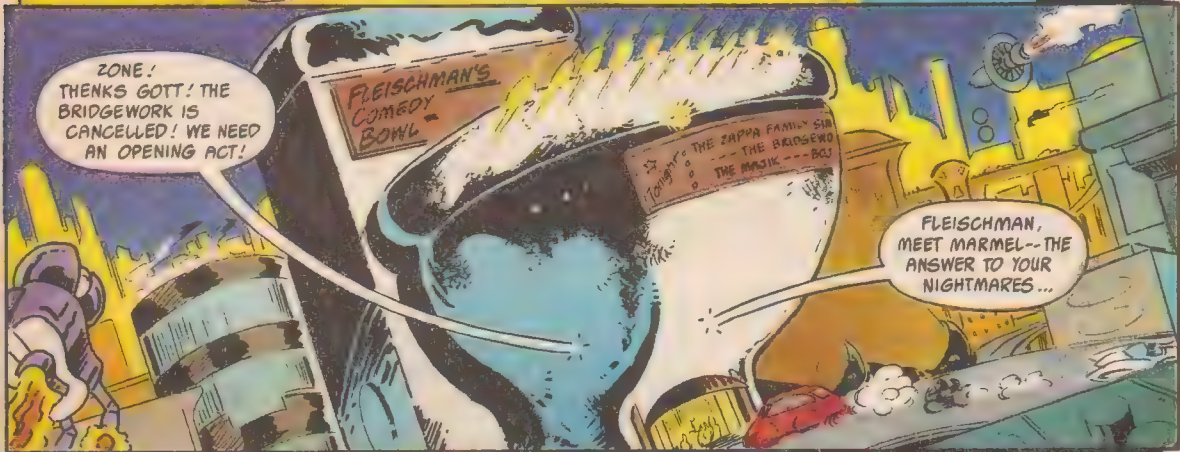






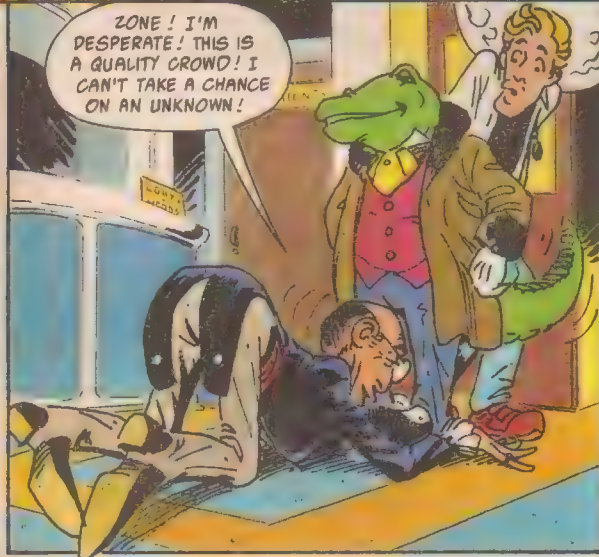


COME ON, KID. FLEISCHMAN'S COMEDY CLUB OWES ME A FAVOR.

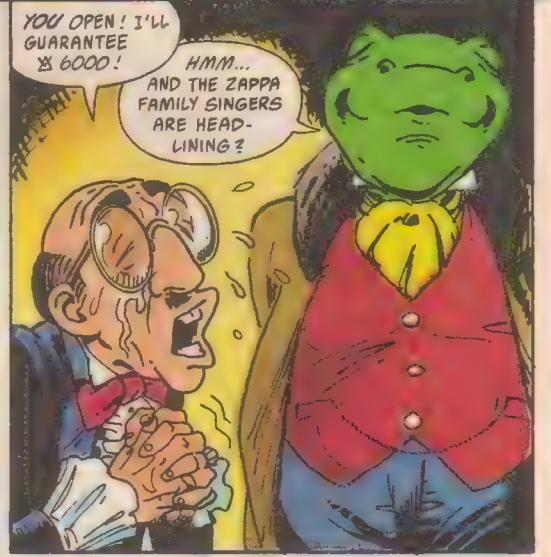


ZONE! THANKS GOTT! THE BRIDGEWORK IS CANCELLED! WE NEED AN OPENING ACT!

FLEISCHMAN, MEET MARMEL--THE ANSWER TO YOUR NIGHTMARES...



ZONE! I'M DESPERATE! THIS IS A QUALITY CROWD! I CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE ON AN UNKNOWN!



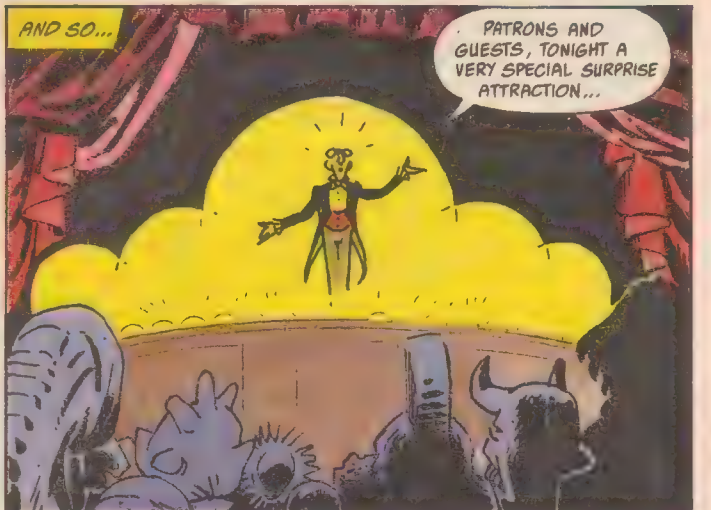
YOU OPEN! I'LL GUARANTEE \$6000!

HMM... AND THE ZAPPA FAMILY SINGERS ARE HEAD-LINING?



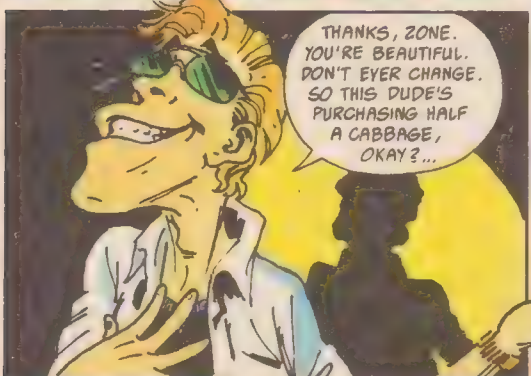
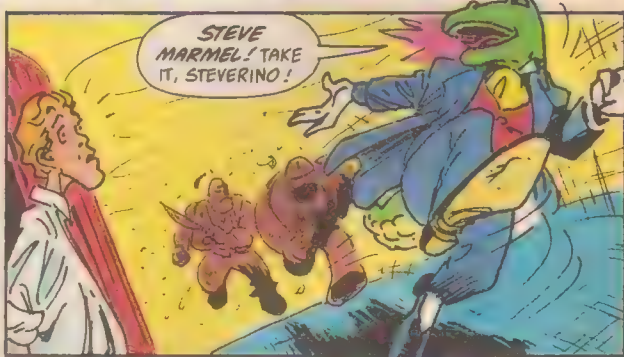
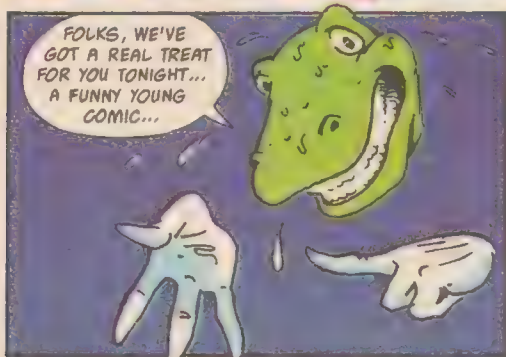
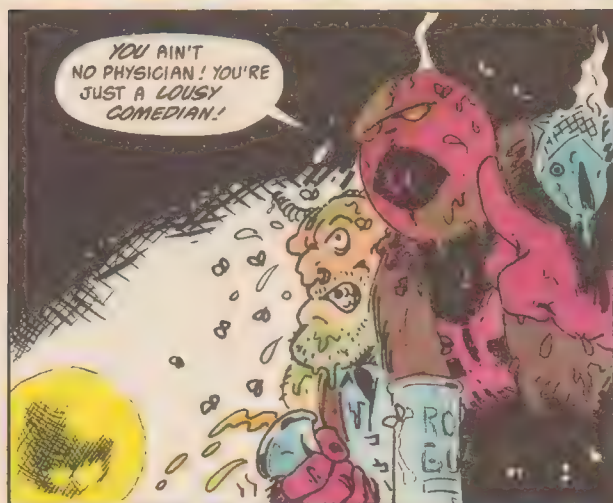
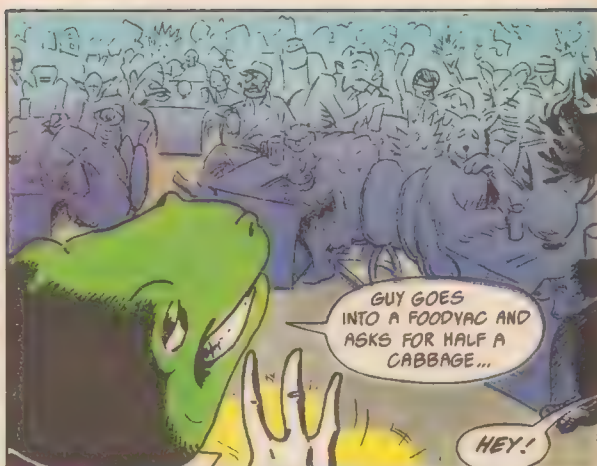
STICK AROUND, KID. WE'LL WORK SOMETHING OUT.

NO PROBLEM, ZONE.



AND SO...

PATRONS AND GUESTS, TONIGHT A VERY SPECIAL SURPRISE ATTRACTION...



FIN

Dear LARRY,:

C/O FIRST COMICS
435 N. LASALLE
CHICAGO IL
60610

Larry,

Badger #41 is great stuff! I loved Fraulein Blum's subtle reaction when Ham removed the gag; very realistic.

I hope there's oxen in the next issue.

Scott Maykrantz
13270 Franklin Avenue
Mt. View, CA 94040

Scott, you must be a psychic. Either that or a sleazebag sneak who waited until after #42 had already come out to write this letter.

Dear Larry and Mike and Mike and Mike and Larry,

Paul Bunyan was a MAN!!! A Manly MAN!!! A log-splittin', flannel wearin', rip-snortin', 'backy-chewin' man who could eat raw cholesterol with his bare hands and sweat without using sissy-boy deodorant.

Perhaps Robert Browning said it best when he wrote:

He sharpened his axe on a mountain

His toothpick was a mighty oak!

You could hear his voice for a hundred miles

Every time Paul Bunyan spoke!!

So it was nice to see the spirit of Paul Bunyan lives in the pages of Badger #42. Too bad that he and his ox aren't still several hundred feet tall because I'd like to see a

sequel where they step on Ted Turner.

In fact, the only problem I had with the issue was the coloring of Babe on the cover. Babe (on the cover) was the same shade as Dagwood Bumstead's dog in the Sunday pages, not the true blue he is supposed to be.

By the way, did you notice how Mr. Thompson slapped at your letter columns in a recent issue of his Comic Buyer's Guide? He made a feeble attempt to make people who write to the Badger sound like a bunch of dim-bulbs. Perhaps you could have the Badger meet Mr. Thompson and kick his spleen loose.

I laugh heartily at every issue of Badger, so don't change anything. In troubled times like these, only the Badger can make us laugh during an election year. Only the Badger can keep us from the rising wave of conservatism. I only hope I'm good enough to be a regular reader of this comic. Sometimes I just feel so damn unworthy.

T.E. Pouncey
Baskerville Hall
Wichita, KS 67208

Mr. Thompson is entitled to his opinion about this letter column, and if he wishes to send us a letter expressing

that opinion, we will gladly print it, because, as anyone can plainly see, we will print anything.

Dear Badgeroos,

Wow, so Lamont has ninja-trained senses, huh? Gee, and here I thought he was just your average ice-skating buffalo. Life sure is full of surprises, isn't it?

What becomes a legend most? Heck if I know. What I do know is that I really like the "Tall Tale" told in Badger #42. It was cute (Cute? Did he say an issue of Badger was cute?) and funny and goofy and I was feeling a little down that day and it gave my spirits a nice little boost and — whew! — I need to take a breath!

Anyway, I thought it was really neat to see our favorite bovine-riding hero meet his legendary counterpart. What a clever idea. Paul even uttered Badger's patented "uf-da" a couple of times, too.

What becomes a legend most? I don't know. Good writing and beautiful art, maybe?

Oh, and speaking of art, it sure is nice to see Ron Lim back on pencils. To be honest, he's the main reason why I started reading Badger (#34 was my first issue). Yes, I most shamefully admit it, I'm one of those slaving little weasels who'll, more often

"No nonsense! Dudes! I gotta go to work! If any of you dudes are ever up this way hittin' the surf, call me up. (Well, actually call me Tony, that's what all my friends call me) and we'll grab some suds or other!!"

than not, read a comic based on the fact that it's being drawn by a favorite artist more than anything else.

What becomes a legend most? Gee, guys, I'm going to have to get back to you on that one.

Bawww! (Oh, excuse me. It must have been the Diet Pepsi.)

J. Simmons
26980 S.W. 45th Drive
Wilsonville, OR 97070

Hey Larry—

Re: Badger #42.

Ron Lim draws *buffaloes* good! Geez, is there no end to his artistic talents??!

P.S. Now, if you could only get him to do a Badger T-shirt... (Hint, hint).

Uncle Elvis
17650 Dawson Road
Dawson Springs, KY 42408

That very T-shirt, drawn by Ron Lim and produced by Graphitti Designs, should now be available.

Hey dudes!!

About Badger #42: Way cool!! Ossum!! This is the type of story Badger needs to be involved in, the relevant, crazy stories we can't find anywhere else. Bravo!! By the by, I also enjoyed the Sister Twyster 2-parter that finished last issue; however, I'm sorry you got rid

of her (him?) so quickly, as he-she was interesting and would've fit in perfectly in the Badger mythos. Whatever.

I really enjoyed #42's letter page; one page of serious letters and one page of "crazy" letters. Plus, it had letters from two guys who live in Northern California; everyone in CA surfs and sh-t (not a, e, o, u) so it was way cool to hear from some fellow beach bums. *More letters from people in California!!!*

And tell Baron that I love what he's doing on Nexus... though I am sorry to see my friend Horatio leaving the Nexus behind.

Ron Lim's art is great!! Keep this dude around as long as possible! But if he really, really has to leave for some reason, try to get Eric Shanower to come back to do a sh-t (not a, e, i, u) as he is one radical artiste, too... WHADDA YOU, A LAWYER was a classic verbage and nounage.

No nonsense! Dudes! I gotta go to work! If any of you dudes are ever up this way hittin' the surf, call me up (well, actually call me Tony, that's what all my friends call me) and we'll grab some suds or other!!

Continue in excellence!! No compromise!!

Anthony Adam
236 West Stadium Drive

Stockton, CA 95204

Dear Larry,

Because of the hard evidence that has recently turned up that Elvis (the King) is still alive, Badger should hunt him down so we can put him in a museum, or something. Okay?

Tony
Thurmont, MD

God, I love this column.



NEXT ISSUE: The title is "Mavis, Hold the Toad," which means 1) There's a toad in it; and 2) Well, you can figure it out. By **Mike Baron, Ron Lim, and Paul Abrams.**

— Larry Doyle

Frank Miller

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